

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

## Notable Milestones in NIOSH History

NIOSH  
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**1970**

**OSH Act** created NIOSH

**1971**

**First Criteria Document** on Asbestos

**First Toxic Substances List**

**1973**

**NIOSH transferred** to CDC from Health Service & Mental Health Administration

**Creation** of NIOSHTIC

**1974**

**NIOSH/OSHA Standards Completion Program** was the basis for 387 new standards, immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) values and the PocketGuide

**1975**

**First Current Intelligence Bulletins** published (chloroprene, trichloroethylene, ethylene dibromide, asbestos (during brake and clutch work), hexamethylphosphoric triamide, polychlorinated biphenyls)

**1977**

**First nine ERCs** were awarded (Harvard, U. Cincinnati, Johns Hopkins, U. Texas Houston, U. Minnesota, U. North Carolina, U. Washington Seattle, U. Illinois Chicago, & U. Arizona)

**Courts** affirm authority to enter workplaces, examine medical records, and disseminate research findings

**NIOSH publishes** *Occupational Diseases: A Guide to Their Recognition*

**1978**

**NIOSH/OSHA Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards** first published

1971 – 1975  
Marcus Key, M.D.  
Director

1975 – 1978  
John Finklea, M.D.  
Director

1978 – 1981  
Anthony Robbins, M.D.  
Director

**1980**

**First State-based occupational health cooperative agreements**

**1984**

**First meeting** of the NIOSH Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC)

**1985**

**On the 15th anniversary** of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) issued a report concluding that the Act had led to the reduction of exposures to vinyl chloride, cotton dust, and lead

**1986**

**NIOSH releases the** *Proposed National Strategies for the Prevention of Leading Work-Related Diseases and Injuries* (Top Ten Work-related Diseases and Injuries)

**NIOSH, OSHA, and EPA** establish the ONE Committee to coordinate the agencies' research efforts

**Collaboration** with ILO International Programme on Chemical Safety to establish peer reviewed hazard communication cards (International Chemical Safety Cards)

**1987**

**Sentinel Event Notification System** for Occupational Risk (SENSOR) program established at NIOSH

**NIOSH publishes** landmark studies showing hazards of vermiculite from Libby, MT

**1989**

**The Alice Hamilton Award** for Excellence in Science in Occupational Safety and Health was initiated

**ABLES** program and State FACE program established

1981 – 1993  
J. Donald Millar, M.D.  
Director

1994 – 2000  
Linda Rosenstock, M.D.  
Director

2002 – 2008  
John Howard, M.D.  
Director

2009 – Present  
John Howard, M.D.  
Director

**1990**

**Centers for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention** established

**1991**

**NIOSH issues** Current Intelligence Bulletin on environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace

**1996**

**NIOSH website** launched

**National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA)** Established

**NIOSH issues** findings & recommendations for preventing workplace homicides and assaults

**1997**

**Mine safety research authority** is transferred to NIOSH following the elimination of the U.S. Bureau of Mines

**NIOSH issues** *Engineering Control Guidelines for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavers* — this represents a new paradigm for conducting research by developing a partnership between labor, industry, and government

**Latex Alert** issued *Preventing allergic reactions to natural rubber latex in the workplace*

**1999**

**NIOSH issues** recommendations for preventing job-related stress

**NIOSH issues** recommendations for preventing work-related needlestick injuries

**2001**

**NIOSH provides** technical assistance for responder safety and health in the World Trade Center rescue and recovery

**NIOSH en Espanol** Web site launched

**2003**

**NIOSH eNews** debuts

**2004**

**Research to Practice (r2p)** Initiative established

**2005**

**NIOSH provides** technical and humanitarian assistance after Hurricane Katrina

**2006**

**Second Decade of NORA** begins

**NIOSH partnered** with SKC Inc., to commercialize two low-cost, NIOSH-designed field methods to help first responders, public health officials, and remediation workers quickly detect the presence of methamphetamine on various environmental surfaces

**2007**

**NIOSH Science Blog** debuts

**2009**

**NIOSH publishes** a literature review and critical analysis of Qualitative Risk Characterization and Management of Occupational Hazards: Control Banding (CB)

**2010**

**NIOSH provides** technical assistance for responder safety and health in the Deepwater Horizon containment and cleanup

**2011**

**World Trade Center Health Program** established

